

VIDYA SAGAR
(Formerly 'The Spastics Society of India, Chennai')

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2011 - 2012



Our Mission

We focus on

- Persons with cerebral palsy, no matter how profoundly affected, and other disabilities where facilities are inaccessible
- Their families and the communities they live in
- Demystification, independence and social inclusion

We believe

- In the right to equality of opportunity
- In the right to make informed choices and meet individual needs
- That disability is a development and human rights issue

We value

(Formerly 'The Spastics Society of India, Chennai')

- Differences
- Collective initiative
- The spirit and positive attitude we bring to work each day

Motto : Positive and Proactive



The other day I received a special phone call .The young adult on the line cheerily updated me on the happenings in his life. He had started working this year.

He was doing well at work, earning a comfortable salary, paying off the loan he had taken for his MBA and contributing to the family kitty. A large chunk of his salary was being spent on auto fare he said, which could not be avoided under the circumstances, however he was planning alternatives.

Some special mentions...the confident and sober young gentleman is twenty three years old .He is a first generation learner. He has cerebral palsy and is a wheelchair user.

The way our alumni are charting their lives is a great feedback!

Vidya Sagar had done well in its mission of education, inclusion, empowerment and employment of persons with disabilities, their families and the communities they live in, yet again! This story began many years ago...

A young child with bright eyes and cerebral palsy came to Vidya Sagar with his parents; His father worked as a factory supervisor and his mother was employed as an ancillary staff in a school. They were deeply concerned about their son's disability, the cost of services and of the future especially as their son was also a first generation learner.

The team listened to their concerns and needs. The parents were relieved. Vidya Sagar would sponsor his program (-thanks to caring philanthropists) .They were reassured as the condition of cerebral palsy was demystified and information and skills shared, a step at a time.

The child received therapy, special education, aids and adaptations specifically designed to his requirements from a team of caring professionals at the day school program. The foundations helped hugely! It was soon apparent that his condition was typical of "an intelligent mind in a disobedient body"! He would benefit from the regular education system, disability notwithstanding, with the right support.

The inclusion team took over. They located the most suitable school in his neighbourhood, planned and worked with the management, staff and students there for his successful inclusion. A mammoth task with great detailing!

The regular school was a new experience. He learnt important lessons there apart from his academics. He learnt to handle access issues and insensitive remarks. The inclusion team of Vidya Sagar supported him through the years even as it empowered him to become independent... He organized his scribes, used sponsorship money judiciously for transport, fees and tuitions .He studied sincerely! His friends assisted him even as they grew more empathetic...

He went on to college on a scholarship .He then applied for a loan on his own for his MBA! By now he knew he had good inter and intrapersonal intelligence and focused on HRD! Thus equipped, he set out to get himself a job

It was a tough challenge once again, there were very few takers for a wheelchair user, his qualifications and emotional intelligence didn't get the credit due. When he was offered a job the pay barely covered his transport costs . He persevered...

It was time for the placement team at Vidya Sagar to step in. They matched his profile with vacancies available , chose the best possible option, guided him on skills that he would now require, sensitized the HRD in the companies about abilities and rights of persons with disabilities and then ...he took charge aware of his rights and his responsibilities His employers are happy with his performance. The parents are justifiably proud!

One of many stories of the year .For, no two youngsters with disabilities are alike. Vidya Sagar's uniqueness is that we work together with a diverse population including persons with severe disabilities towards enabling their rights and unique ,often hidden potential!

We have been busy at Vidya Sagar celebrating successes, enabling our children and young adults face challenges, giving them roots to grow ...and wings to flyand in their happiness we find ours!!

Here, no child is denied services for lack of funds- our dynamic fund raisers network with a wonderful community to enable this. No child is denied services because of severity of impairment. We are fortunate to have a great team that strives constantly to update itself and give of its best.

Our work with persons with disabilities, families and communities gives us rare insights into neurological impairments. It has enabled us to pioneer programs and develop resources.

The cause and work we are passionate about has been possible because of the very many people who have given of their time, resources, expertise, joined hands with us in our pursuit of "happiness" in the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

We thank and salute every one of them....we are confident they will continue to be with us in this exciting, meaningful journey together!

Usha Ramakrishnan



2011-2012 has been another eventful year. This term is getting to be a cliché but nevertheless it's true. What I will attempt to do is to try and encapsulate only the new areas that Vidya Sagar has ventured into. Of course the everyday work of the centre carries on. But every new area that we work on is not only the result of meeting a need but also in some way formulating the direction Vidya Sagar is going to take

And so, if I had to put the areas that we focused on this year they would be:

- 1) The growth or expansion of Early Intervention and the pre primary section.
- 2) Innovative work with Autism using the theory of Multiple Intelligences
- 3) Development of new training courses and reaching out to smaller towns and individuals to work out training programmes.
- 4) Launch of the Youth Programme

Early Intervention and Pre-Primary Section

The numbers of babies with disabilities assessed and intervention programmes worked out in our Advisory and Referral Centre have increased by 50%, from last year. We have found that 80% of these babies, who have come to the centre, have low vision and most of them are non-verbal. The youngest baby that we have intervened with, was just five months old.

As Low Vision and Multiple Disabilities in babies and young children is one of our focal areas of work, we have partnered with Frontline, an eye hospital in Chennai, to deal with this issue on both the medical and rehabilitation front. Our partnership with Frontline hospital has enabled us to conduct a vision check-up of all the children in the school.

The results of this check-up has positively impacted the work in other departments like Augmentative and Alternative Communication Department (AAC) , where accessibility to communication ,now, not only takes into consideration just the modes and devices, but also considers the various fonts, sizes, colour and contrasts, that are best suited to cater to the individual needs of each child.

The vision clinic, in the mornings, provides services to the children within Vidya Sagar; the evening classes of the clinic reach out to other children in the city. Along with our vision clinic, we have also started a vision unit within the Early Intervention Centre. This vision unit caters exclusively to the needs of the babies of the Early Intervention Centre.

We have expanded the pre-primary programme (meant for children between the ages of 4-9 years) from just one class initially, to five classes this year, so that we could reach out to more children. These children are children with profound disability. What was heartening about this programme was the involvement of the parents and their proactive approach to rehabilitation.

This year, we have also upgraded the skills of our teachers and therapists through our partnership with the Perkins School for the Blind in Boston, USA. One staff member was sent to Perkins for a 9 month, Educational Leadership programme. Her inputs have made a huge difference in the quality of our interventions.

Work with Autism

Though Vidya Sagar works with cross-disability - and Autism in particular, we were never viewed as an organization with expertise in Autism. This is mainly because our approach to this disability has been a little different from the given accepted approach.

However we have done some interesting work with Autism, in that we have assessed the child with Autism through the lens of Multiple Intelligences. This approach is one which takes into consideration the strengths of the child (which can be in 8 different ways; and which Howard Gardner termed as the 8 kinds of intelligences) and provides intervention through that particular intelligence. This method has had positive results.

Four students with autism completed their Xth and XIIth exams through the NIOS board in the last academic year. All of them have given the exams using an AAC mode.

MIND and Hydra

This year we launched a project called MIND-Multiple Intelligences and Disabilities. Under this project we have worked on project "Hydra". Hydra is a centre started by Mr Chandrashekar but run with complete support and inputs from Vidya Sagar. This centre is unique in its approach since it is inspired by the theory of Multiple Intelligences. The centre works with children with Learning Disabilities and Autism.

Vidya Sagar has provided the technical support to the centre through trainings; -setting up the resource spaces and environment for the different intelligences; -orienting children, parents and resource persons to the centre and the activities and providing resources for the children.

Training

Along with running the usual PG Diploma Course in Special Education: Multiple Disabilities (physical and Neurological) ; and a Diploma Course in Special education (Autism Spectrum Disorders), we also ran a number of short term courses - a month long course for Early Intervention and another one in AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).

One of the new courses that we developed was a part-time course in counseling with a focus on disability. "COUNSELOR EDUCATION-DISABILITY AND MENTAL HEALTH". The students were practicing counselors and social workers. This course was funded by ONGC. The response to this course was overwhelming and we plan to run this again in the coming year. The curriculum was formulated by two well known and experienced counselors who had also worked in the field of disability- Dr. Sivakami and Dr. Radhika Soundararajan.

This year, following an invitation from the government of the Andaman Islands we have run a course in inclusive education for mainstream teachers. A few other organizations outside Chennai have also approached us to run similar courses for them. In the coming year, we will be training the CBSE teachers in Muscat in the area of inclusive education.

Apart from these, Senior staff of Vidya Sagar had been to Vietnam and Bangladesh, to train their staff (university lecturers, CBR workers, mainstream school principals and teachers special educators and government officials) in the area of using AAC for children with Multiple disabilities. This training was in partnership with Perkins- the school for the Blind-Boston.

Launch of the Youth Programme:

The Youth Programme was launched this year on 31 March 2012. The need for this programme was voiced by some of our alumni who complained of loneliness and boredom. This programme is in its very initial stages. Along with defining “Youth”, we are still brainstorming and debating on what it needs to offer, how it is going to be taken forward etc. The plan to work with other mainstream youth programme is of course a must.

The initial project in the Youth Programme is the “Kalakkal Café”. Kalakkal is a Tamil word which means “exuberation”, it's difficult to get an exact English word for it. In Hindi it would be “Hulchul” That this café is completely accessible goes without saying. But what sets it apart is that we are not looking at it as a training site. We hope that this café will go out into the community. It is a “hang out” place for all, has a live band and a dance floor and it promises to host live performances, exhibitions and lectures, but if you want to avoid all that and just want to spend hours over a two handed mug of coffee - feel welcome!

The Youth project also has a marketing initiative, which has started out with an outlet called Kalakkal Kadai. The Kadai provides the space for self-employed people with disability to market their products. The marketing federations of Vidya Sagar have held workshops to enable people with disability to upgrade their products and its packaging. Two workshops were conducted in packaging, which was well attended by people not only from Chennai but also from Pondicherry, Trichy and Mayawaram. Along with this, Vidya Sagar will also make it possible for people with disabilities to access the services of management experts for setting up small scale businesses.

This is just the beginning of the Youth Programme. As it grows and evolves we hope it will address the needs of the Youth with disability.

What I have put down is just a glimpse of our newer projects. But what actually happens in Vidya Sagar, is that something new happens everyday; in a class, or in the therapy unit or in the corridor - and these little innovations and successes is what keeps our spirits high and urges us to attempt bigger things!

Rajul Padmanabhan

Projects/Service	No. of Beneficiaries
Advisory & Referral Clinic & Family Based Rehabilitation	525 and their families
Work in Public Health Centre with infants/ babies "at risk"	350 babies
Early intervention program	27 babies
Outstation program for those who live in smaller towns, different parts of India ,and outside India	93 families
Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Project	2500 and their families
Capacity building of partner organizations in rural & semi urban areas (35 partner organizations all over India)	
Implementing Community Mental Health and Development(CMHD)	
Pudhu Vaazhvu Government Project	
Centre For Special Education (Research & Demonstration Centre)	150 students
Comprehensive Program of therapy, communication, art. music, education and creative movement therapy for children of school going age	
Employment and Education Centre -	45 adults
Inclusion Cell enabling and providing support for children with disabilities to attend mainstream schools	1500 children with disabilities in main stream schools
Sarva Siksha Abhayan "Education for all" program. Vidya Sagar trains educators in 6 blocks reaching out to 400 schools	
Human Resource Development	
* 1year post graduate Diploma in Special Education	11
* 2 year Diploma In Autism	5
* Need based short term courses and workshops	35
* 3 month course in Counselor Education - Disability and Mental Health	15
* Internship training for physio, speech and occupational therapists, social workers international students	42
* Orientation programs, for students of nursing, architecture, psychology, visual communication, journalism and engineering	453
* Vidya Sagar has also pioneered the Trans disciplinary course in the Management of Cerebral Palsy	
Advocacy: "Disability Legislation Unit South	
-advocates for the rights of persons with disability -towards influencing both policy makers and community at the grass root level	
Legal Aid Cell works at ensuring that rights of the disabled are safeguarded	
Tejas (Self Advocacy group of Disabled Women)	



Home management programme



Out station programme

ADVISORY & REFERRAL CENTRE

- ▲ During the year 2011-2012, almost 525 children were assessed in our Advisory & Referral Centre.
- ▲ The new assessments were 346 and the follow up reviews were 179. Families from different countries like Sri Lanka, Singapore, UK, Bangladesh, USA and Dubai and also, from various places in India, like Rajasthan, Tripura and Raipur have availed of our services.
- ▲ More infants have been coming in for assessments, the youngest being around 5 months old.
- ▲ The Vision Clinic supported us by providing vision care services for the children from the Family Based Rehabilitation Unit.
- ▲ 13 children have gone into the Day Centre. 8 children have gone into mainstream schools with the help of the Inclusion Department.

Outstation Program

During the months of January, April and August, 93 families from India and outside, attended the outstation program. During the outstation program, we conducted 2 workshops - one on Activities of Daily Living Skills and the other on Parenting, both being of utmost use to the beneficiaries.

EARLY INTERVENTION

This year, the Early Intervention program had a total of 16 children in the morning batch and 11 children in the afternoon batch.

At any given session in the Early Intervention classroom, one child would have a session with the therapist, and another would be in a one on one session with the special educator, while the other special educator would be conducting a group session for the rest of the children. The group sessions have had a holistic approach with focus on multi-ability teaching. The children also have one individual session on the computer with their mothers.

Apart from regular therapy sessions, various types of activities are done with the children such as obstacle courses with textured mats and small and simple obstacles to climb over and crawl under. This is done every week on Thursday, which has helped increase the vocabulary and improved the language skills of the children. The children were given creative movement sessions by Andrea, with the assistance of physiotherapists, Simy and Jayanthi. Orientation and mobility sessions were structured and consistent documentation of the lesson plans have been done.

Sports and other group games like cricket, bowling or musical chairs, are conducted in class, to boost the morale of parents and also to build a competitive spirit among the children. Through this, there has been a marked improvement in the social skills of the children.

Toilet scheduling and indicating for toileting have been the priority goals for this academic year. A lunch group has been formed with the older children; and all the children have lunch together at the PETO table. All the preparatory activities before eating are done in a fun way as a group.

Periodic workshops have been held for the parents. The workshops conducted this year were: - Therapy workshop, Occupational Therapy workshop, Counseling workshop and a Parenting workshop.

The children of the Early Intervention programme have also gone for outings, this academics year. They have visited the IIT Campus, VGP amusement Park, Guindy Park, Anna Library and the Beach (It was 7 year old Ebenezer's first trip to the beach)

HOME MANAGEMENT

A total number of 23 children were enrolled in the Home Management program for the year 2011-2012. This is the programme that works towards empowering the family of the child with disability. Each child is assessed by a team and a programme is evolved and transferred to the family, thus enabling them to carry over the training at home. The staff work closely with the family. They visit the homes of the children and suggest aids and adaptations there. Communication aids, furniture and orthotic aids are provided as needed.

Group activities in the afternoons focus on gross motor, fine motor, socialization, communication, ADLs, play and story sessions. All the programmes are flexible and adapted to suit the needs of the child and his family.

Most of the children enrolled in this programme have come regularly throughout this year. Parents were trained in the maintenance of position, therapy, education training. One child came from Tripura with his parents and stayed for 4 days as a guest student. The parents, as well as the child, were trained for functional academics and were given vocational inputs.

Children participated in the Natural Calamity Project on Project Day, along with the children of The Day Centre. All the children have got their Identity cards, and most of them have availed the beneficiary support from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

VISION CENTRE

PROJECT REPORTS

The Vision Centre continued its services in supporting and training the students who came to the Advisory and Referral clinic with this specific issue. The Early Intervention Centre carried out the vision training activity. Support given to the children in day centre and inclusion were need based.

Environmental modifications, orientation and mobility needs for Reception class was organised.

Three outstation students underwent the holistic programme for a week and their parents were trained to take it forward.

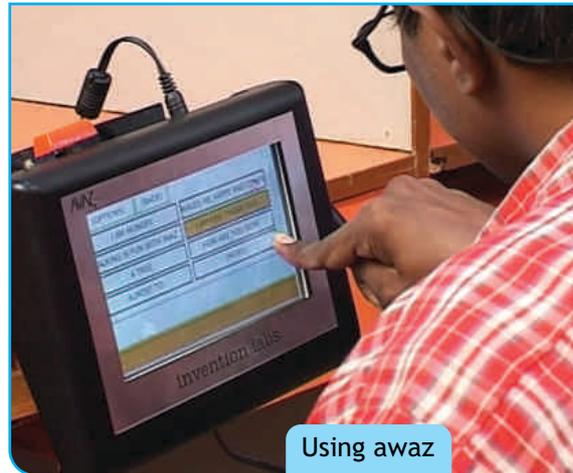
The vision centre was involved in training of TTC and staff. Other organisations such as Voice & Vision, Clarke School and SSA staff from Andaman's availed of our training in this field.

Professionals from different fields have shown interest in understanding the needs of people with low vision. Professionals like paediatricians, neurologists from Child Trust Hospital, architecture students and ITC hotel hospitality sector, and special educators showed great interest and involvement to make changes in the teaching learning tools, accessibility after understanding what low vision is.



Vision Clinic

The Communication Department of Vidya Sagar, ensures that every student who comes to the organization with communication difficulties, gets a communication system, which can range from objects, body language, sign language, gestures and low tech communication aid to the state-of-the-art, High tech communication system. In the Day centre itself at least 90% of the children use an Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) Device. Most of them get individual communication sessions in the department. This department also takes on group communication sessions.



Using awaz

Assessments are done in this department to gauge language, speech and communication difficulties of children with different neurological impairments. Thereafter programmes are planned and appropriate AAC devices, if needed, are given to the students. It is ensured that the students use the device in all settings and therefore, not only are the students trained to use an AAC, but, the skills are transferred to the teacher and the parents, as well.



Aditi

This academic year, the staff have done fresh assessments for 150 people with neurological impairments, who came through the Advisory and Referral centre. 325 review assessments were also done.

The Communication department has distributed 75 ADITIS, to students from the Early Intervention Unit and the Day Centre Department of Vidya Sagar. In co-ordination with Invention Labs, 5 Awaz communication devices were given to the students.

This year, 25 students from Ramachandra College of Speech and Hearing had come for a 40 days period each, of internship posting. 10 engineering graduates from Anna University and 5 students from

IIT, came for their project work on developing communication devices.

The staff were involved in training the TTC students in communication. Sessions were also taken for the counseling course trainees, and for the special educators and other professionals, who had enrolled for the CRE course on Inclusion. A workshop was conducted in collaboration with Dirubhai Ambani Ltd. Furthermore, paper presentation was done in Hyderabad and AAC training was done in Vietnam and Srilanka.

As a culmination of a week long programme on AAC awareness, a Rally was organized, for which, participants from all walks of life joined us. They got to know more about Alternate forms of Communication. This Rally, was a Rally with a difference. It was a run, where the participant got an opportunity to interact with AAC users, learnt how to sign, and bought a travelogue, which could be used in any part of the world. A "unique treasure hunt", was also organized as part of this rally.



Partha

Vidya Sagar's largest program - The Day Center, is a comprehensive programme that looks at not only education, but also physiotherapy, occupational therapy, communication therapy, computer sessions, art, music, sports, creative movement and counseling, for students with multiple disabilities, between the ages of 6 to 18 yrs.

This academic year, the Day Centre had a total strength of 150 students. The students were divided into 18 classes depending on their age and their specific educational programs, which varied according to their needs. This year the parents were invited to take an active part in discussing and deciding the individual education plans for each of their wards. The programme was planned in such a way that it was periodically monitored, reviewed and modified. At the end of each term, a written report on the achievements of each child was sent to the respective parents.

Age appropriate academic inputs from Grade 1 to grade 12 (NIOS syllabus) were given to the students.

The senior students attending the Adult Leisure Program (ALP) were divided into three groups so that focused attention could be given to increase the skills of the students. This year a lot of importance was given on providing the aids and adaptations required for the independence of a person with disability, be it in communication or in a vocation.

One such group of senior students was thus trained in using technology and assistive devices for independent living. After the training, this group was encouraged to form a self help group that would make products using machinery which could be accessed by assistive devices.

It is important to note that, this year, the activities of the Day Centre were planned in such a way that the students had the opportunity to interact with the mainstream society and learn by experience & exploration

Therefore, students from the different classes participated in various educational activities like:



Matrix class students with special communication software-CC



Children enjoying the park at Yelagiri



Vikasa 2010



Diwali



Sculpture demonstration for project day



Skating session for children from the Autism class



Therapy session

- ✧ KFI 'S annual science meet,
- ✧ Vidya Sagar's Inclusive science fair,
- ✧ International Children's Film Festival in Hyderabad,
- ✧ The Art Festival for children, Orissa,
- ✧ The Ability film festival ,
- ✧ The Child Rights Convention, Orissa

Apart from these, the students have been on an excursion to Yelagiri. They have also taken part in various events held in Chennai such as :

- ✧ Dream Cricket day, science exhibitions and turtle walks.
- ✧ The students have also actively participated in the regular in house events of the Day Centre, like the Annual Sports day, Independence Day celebration, Teachers day celebration, Children's carnival and the Project day presentations (with the theme of Natural calamities) .
- ✧ Clubs were also successfully run this academic year. Every student was given an opportunity to develop a hobby by joining any one of the different clubs.

The formation of The PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION , was a major highlight, as it marked an important milestone in the history of the Day Centre.

Students needing special attention from Neurologists, Dieticians and Psychologists were provided with the appropriate service.

3 special educators, 1 social worker and 2 therapists were appointed in the beginning of this year. Apart from the main staff, Speech and Language pathologists and internees doing their course in social work contributed their expertise to making the team at Vidya Sagar extremely vibrant.



Visit of internees from Lady Anadal

Periodic workshops were held on various topics for skill enhancement and capacity building for the in house staff members.

The highlights of the year:

Number of students included in the mainstream	: 1
Number of students who have gone for higher education in colleges	: 4
Number of students who moved from Day Centre to The Employment Education Centre	: 5
Number of students who have started Self Help Groups	: 7



Workshop for parents by Dr Veera



Tanjore art workshop for the staff

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION CENTRE, YOUTH PROGRAMME, SKILLS TRAINING UNIT

PROJECT REPORTS



Canteen

The Employment Education Centre (EEC) at Vidya Sagar, trains adults with multiple disabilities-in almost all areas of work and adulthood.

In the year 2011 -2012, the Employment Education Centre had 45 students. They were trained holistically in different skills, with the aim of using skills to earn their livelihood.

Out of the 45 adults, nearly 15 of them were encouraged and supported by us to start forming self help groups in order to run businesses on their own, with the support of parents. Thereafter, the groups utilized the skills given during the training and formed successful self help groups in the community.



TI cycles - training workshop

Employment Education Centre participated in the sale of products at 6 different places in Chennai. This academic year, all the students of EEC went to Mysore for a 2 day trip, which was supported by Tamil Nadu Tourism Department.

The Youth Programme that was started this year, has served to enhance the services provided for the adults with disabilities. This programme has successfully managed to address the needs of the disabled youth in the city, right from leisure and higher education to employment and entrepreneurship.



Kalakkal Kadai Inaugurated by our Young Entrepreneurs

As part of the youth programme, 6 students went out for open placement. On job training was given for another 6 students in areas of industrial technical training, bakery and confectionary and in graphics (I MAX-IFX).

Enhanced skill development training was also an area of focus on the youth programme.

15 students attended a 10 day training conducted by TI cycles, in Bicycle assembly and repair services

Skill development for youth was also looked at holistically. Workshops and training in soft skills were imparted to the youth to help face competitions and make them stand on par with the rest of society.

A “packaging” workshop was conducted by Ms Arthi Abraham, which was well attended by not only the youth of Vidya Sagar but also by entrepreneurs from other organizations, who are into production and marketing of their products. A personality development training workshop was conducted for the alumni of Vidya Sagar, with a focus on self management, interpersonal skills, self motivation and problem solving skills. An initial meeting for starting an interactive club in skill development was conducted. It was attended by 35 alumni of Vidya Sagar, 1 sibling and a parent group.

A permanent outlet to showcase and market products made by people with disabilities was inaugurated this academic year. “Kalakkal Kadai”, the marketing initiative, is a shop on the premises of Vidya Sagar, which displays products made by people with disabilities not only from Vidya Sagar, but also from other organizations in Chennai and Tamil Nadu. The money that is made through the sales of these products goes directly back to the person who has made the product.

Leisure is another focus area of the Youth Programme. The “Kalakkal Café” is an inclusive café that is at present run from the premises of Vidya Sagar, on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month. It is a place for both the disabled and non disabled youth of the city to “hang out”, make friends, dance, listen to music and “chill out”.

This café is made completely accessible with Braille and pictorial menu cards, tactile walls, ramps, accessible toilets and eating aids. The “Kalakkal Café” is an exciting new venture for the first time in India.

The Skills Training Unit (STU) and The Adult Leisure Programme (ALP), looks into the needs of adults with profound disabilities. This academic year there has been a lot of focus on using the skills of the adults to make products which can be marketed.

Though our Education Employment Centre is addressing the needs of the adults, there are still a number of questions that keep popping up.

One major issue that we are constantly debating is, how long can an adult with disability stay in the EEC? Where does the training end? What if there is no employment after the training? We hope some answers will emerge from the Youth Programme, but till then the questions persist!



Sensory Training Unit



Inclusive science fair



Workshop for peers in mainstream schools

The Inclusion department enrolls children from various departments of Vidya Sagar and includes them into mainstream schools and colleges. The department, works towards creating opportunities for inclusion and sustaining it.

There are a total of 109 students were included in 35 schools, in and around Chennai. A total of 13 students included in 10 colleges were also supported by the department. These students were provided with support services in therapy, communication, counseling as and when required. Scribes, modification in curriculum, alternate evaluation, buddy group supports were also arranged by the department.

Technical support was given to the teachers of the schools and colleges where the children were placed. Similarly, workshops were conducted on topics like disability awareness, inclusion, reading and peer sensitizations.

The Inclusion Week was celebrated very successfully this academic year by department. As part of the celebration, an inclusive Science Fair was conducted on campus. All the schools that have included our children took part in this event. Apart from that, a few other mainstream schools worked along with the children at Vidya Sagar to create and display science projects.

The other events that took place during the inclusion week were: Opinions of parents and students who have been included were collected and displayed on the notice boards. The Vidya Sagar inclusion team also went to some special schools in Chennai to tell them about Vidya Sagar's perspectives towards inclusion.

The other highlights of the department were:

- 3 students completed their 12th standard state board exams
- 2 student completed their 10th state board exam
- 4 students graduated from their respective colleges

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan:

Vidya Sagar worked with 6 zones in Chennai in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme, as an implementing NGO. We have reached out to over 1800 students with disabilities, and more than 300 schools through this programme.

This year, Vidya Sagar contributed toward capacity building by creating training modules and manuals in Autism for Special educators, Teachers, Doctors, Professionals and Peers and also conducted pilot classes for the master training programme.



Workshop for teachers at Amrit centre for special needs, Coimbatore

Vidya Sagar's Community Based Rehabilitation programme started way back in 1986 almost parallel with the starting of the centre. This was in accordance with our mission statement which states, "We focus on persons with cerebral palsy, no matter how profoundly affected , and other disabilities where facilities are inaccessible" And our belief that there should be equity in the distribution and access to rehabilitation services.

The Community Based Rehabilitation Project at Vidya Sagar works towards building the capacity of organisations, community groups and individuals working in the area of disabilities, community mental health and development. It has evolved, primarily in two directions.

- a) The organisations in smaller towns have become independent and reach out to their local areas and needs - but they still call us for trainings in specific areas.
- b) We now work very closely with the government project called "Pudhu Vaazhvu" and have started looking at the needs of people with disabilities in the urban slums.

Activities of the CBR project between April 2011 and March 2012

- Mahaeswar is a parent initiative, which has as its mission the development of quality intervention facilities for people with disabilities in the Mayawaram district of Tamil Nadu. This year, we have assessed and conducted an intervention program for the children with disabilities in the centre.
- Amar Seva Sangam, an organisation in Thenkasi district of Tamil Nadu, works towards the rehabilitation of people with disability in that area. The highlight of our work with them this academic year is that through our technical support, we have facilitated the inclusion of many children with disabilities in to mainstream schools.
- In Amrith School for Special needs, Coimbatore, we have worked with their special educators and therapists on how to do holistic assessments and create and implement behavior modification programmes for children with intellectual disabilities.
- With Nazereth Illam, in Talawadi, we have started working with people with disability during this academic year. We visited the villages in Talawadi Taluk and have evaluated the rehabilitation facilities available there. This was done to extend our support to Nazereth Illam and to help them plan the activities that they would need to conduct (with support from us) the rehabilitation program for people with disabilities.

Pudhu Vaazhvu Project:

Pudhu Vaazhvu is a state government project for the development of rural communities. Rehabilitation work for people with disabilities and other marginalised and vulnerable groups is outsourced by the government to credible Non Governmental Organisations. We have been allotted the Acharapakkam Block in Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu, to take on the rehabilitation work there. The area allotted to us, covers around 59 villages.

This year, through this project, we:

- 1) Have Conducted a Training Workshop in “Aids and Appliances repairing”, for selected CDFs and SGFs. This workshop was facilitated by Mr. Musthafa.
- 2) Have gone for regular visits to the villages to mentor CDFs.
- 3) Have conducted meetings with parents of disabled children on how to further improve the programme.

The CBR project next year, apart from working with the rural community is also going to address the needs of persons with disabilities in the slums of Chennai. We also hope to enlarge this department so that we can reach out to more communities and persons with disabilities.



Workshop for community workers on repairing aids and appliances at the Achirapakkam Block.


Inauguration of the counseling course

PG Diploma in Special Education - Class in progress

The Human Resources Department of Vidya Sagar conducts courses, coordinates trainings and events, supports other organizations in skill enhancement, and works with volunteers and internees, both nationally and internationally.

The 2 full time courses that we run every year are:

- a) PG Diploma in Special Education for Multiple Disabilities (Physical and neurological) This year, we had a total of 11 students.
- b) Diploma in Special Education: Autism Spectrum Disorder. From this year, the diploma in Autism Spectrum Disorder has become a RCI recognized 2 year course. We are running this course with 5 students.

We have also conducted a course in Continuous Rehabilitation Education (CRE) - 'Strategies for Inclusion'. 25 registered professionals from Vidya Sagar and other institutions participated in this 5 day course which took place in January.

As a pioneering venture, we have successfully completed a 3 month training program for existing counselors, psychologists, social workers and doctors to train them in the field of disability. This "Counselor Education - Disability and Mental Health" certificate course was conducted from the first week of January to the last week of March 2012. The course was sponsored by ONGC Ltd.

The classes took place on campus between 4pm to 7pm on Tuesdays and from 9am to 4pm on Saturdays. With a curriculum that was designed by Vidya Sagar, 15 professionals were trained this year.

25 special educators from the Clarke school, Helen Keller Institute and organizations supported by Sense International, were trained in Ahmadabad for three days on Cerebral Palsy - Management and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). It was attended by two of our staff members.

In order to create resources for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a three phase program was planned with the SSA, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In the month of September, the first phase of the program in Port Blair oversaw the training of 40 SSA teachers, block development officers and resource teachers on Inclusive Strategies.

Phase 2 oversaw 11 members of the group undergoing a two week Master Training program at Vidya Sagar in December, with the aim of making them master trainers for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The third phase will be initiated in the next academic year.

Voice and Vision conducts Master Trainer programs every year. One such program of 2 days was conducted by Vidya Sagar and the trainees were given inputs on low vision and Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Vidya Sagar works closely with Perkins International. The HR department coordinated a two week training course on creating learning environments for children with VIMD, which was conducted at the Protibondhi Foundation in Dhaka, Bangladesh. 20 special educators, university department heads, school principals and advocacy officers attended this program. The second week of the training, conducted by the head of HRD, Vidya Sagar, focused on communication for children with vision and motor issues.

We supported Hydra project this year as well. “Hydra” is the Multiple Intelligences unit run in collaboration with Mr. Chandrashekar, the founder of MDA. We conducted training programs on multiple intelligence, learning difficulties and assessing and profiling the intelligences of students. 8 students were taken into Hydra this year.

The HR staff member worked with the SSA on planning, developing curriculums, training material and hands-on training for the master trainers, special educators, teachers, professionals, parents and peers of children with Autism in SSA schools. This is a state project which has reached out to the entire state of Tamil Nadu.

The department has given numerous orientation programs on disabilities. We have also had 5 international internees coming for their period of internship from VIA University, Denmark and Notre Dame College. The total number of beneficiaries from this enhancement program was 453, which includes architectural students, engineering students, teacher trainees, social work students, psychology students and students undergoing training as special educators from different organizations all over India.

STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES.

PROJECT REPORTS

- 2 physiotherapists from Vidya Sagar attended a five day workshop on 'Neuro-Developmental Therapy for children with Cerebral Palsy', to enhance their therapy skills. The workshop was conducted by Therapy India and Sri Siddhartha Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Centre in Hyderabad. The workshop gave them further insight to the different therapy needs of children with Cerebral Palsy.
- 2 senior staff members attended a conference at NIPMED on “Adults with multiple disabilities’. The conference focused on vocational training & opportunities for their employment. The participants shared their experiences in this area and were able to gather a lot of information from each other especially about how to prepare them for employment.
- 16 senior management staff members attended a one day workshop on “Action Learning- Introduction and Practice” by Mr. John Heywood, who has more than twenty years of experience in business and Information Technology. The workshop focused on establishing a non-judgmental relationship, improving performance, raising awareness and self-awareness, providing support to reduce internal obstacles, and creating opportunities to reflect, conclude and plan.
- 2 staff members attended a National Level Art Therapy workshop conducted by a special school 'Aikya'.
- 3 staff members attended a six-day workshop on “Child Sexual Abuse” conducted by 'Tulir'. The first three days was a primary training on 'Child Abuse'. The next three days was an advanced training, with focus on legal aid for child abuse victims, and issues relating to the Court trials, the Police, and the Media.
- Vidya Sagar in association with Basic Needs India organized a six-day training program on “Community Mental Health and Development”, in Chennai. 5 staff members from Vidya Sagar attended the course.
- Art & Craft program for 5 weeks, conducted by a fine art graduate, Kushboo, for staff /class teachers- to learn techniques of painting, craft work & pottery painting.
- Ms Andrea and 3 yoga experts from The Chennai Volunteers conducted a staff training workshop

Meenakshi, Assistant Coordinator, Disability Legislation Unit South is on deputation to NCPEDP, New Delhi to work on the Disability Rights Budget Analysis (DRBA) a component of the parallel report process. This will also create a base for advocacy for the disability sector towards financial allocation for the sector. Centre for Budget and Governance accountability (CBGA) has trained the team and are guiding this process. The first 2 months has been a training phase. The outcomes of this phase:

1. Demand from the Disability Sector for allocation in the union budget for the first time.
2. Response to Union Budget (This is a process undertaken by CBGA and People's Budget Initiative to present to the government immediately after the union government announces the budget. This year we have a chapter on disability)

Parallel report - UNCRPD:

A country that ratifies the UN Convention for the Rights of Disabled People becomes a State Party for that Convention. India being a State Party for CRPD, has to submit a Country report on the implementation of CRPD and the NGO sector of the country would submit a parallel report on the same.

1. Rajiv & Meenakshi attended 4 two day meetings and a 4 day meeting in Delhi on Parallel Report.
2. Legal reviewing done on around 150 National laws as part of parallel reporting.
3. Rajiv was a part of the Country report discussions held in Delhi in January. The draft report of NALSAR was discussed and given feedback.
4. Meenakshi attended a 3 days training program with CBGA, New Delhi on the budget allocation for Disabled People, as part of the Parallel reporting process, along with other members of the national disability network involved in the parallel report process.
5. Meenakshi along with Sudha had been a part of the parallel report exchange process between India and Philippines organized in Bangkok.
6. Part of the discussions on Parallel reporting within NDN

RTI: also as a part of parallel report)

1. Right To Information petitions were filed seeking information on the recruitment of disabled people, accessible environment and pay & allowances given to disabled people in various departments of the State Government. The replies being compiled (more than 150) and more are expected.
2. Met Mr. Dharmesh, an Environmental activist and expert in RTI thrice for guidance.

International Representations:

1. Meenakshi went on an internship to Seoul, South Korea for a period of 15 days in October.
2. Rajiv, during the same period, went for a consultation of Asia Pacific Disabled People's Organisations United for 3 days.
3. Stake holder's preparatory meeting for high level government meeting to review the 2nd decade of disabled people at the Asia pacific level. Rajiv attended this and was selected to represent the region at the SAARC countries meet. AP DPO meet also took place on the sidelines.
4. All members of DLU South and a few alumni of Vidya Sagar attended Asia Pacific Disabled People International (AP DPI) regional workshop at Delhi. Rajiv & Dhana represented Ektha.

National Trust:

1. Dhana Sekar Andavar has attended 5 National Trust board meeting till date.
2. Dhana under went a training of Master trainers at Varanasi on fund raising & organizational development conducted by the National Trust.
3. CRPD training conducted at Pondy, Kerala and SPASTN.
4. ZTRT training at TN & Pondy.

Department for the welfare of differently abled:

1. The team met Mrs. Kannagi Packiyathan the Secretary for the Department of the Welfare of the Differently Abled regarding the various bus routes, care takers, welfare board and other issues. They met the minister for the same department, Selvi Ramajayam, to discuss issues of people with medically disabling conditions and care takers for severely disabled people.
2. Did an access audit of the newly rolled out accessible bus by the present State Government. It was published in the New Indian Express.

Planning Commission:

1. Meenakshi attended Central Planning Commission's Steering group meeting for Health and presented a paper on Health & Education for the Planning Commission.
2. We have been giving inputs to the State planning commission on the disability related issues. Meeting with Ms. Shantha Sheela Nair were conducted several times regarding the same.
3. Rajiv & Smitha took part in preparing a report as part of the working group for Multiple Disabilities of the State Planning Commission at SRTC.
4. We have also participated in the steering group meeting of the disability department on the working group reports. The process will continue till the state finalizes.

Civil Aviation:

1. We launched complaints to the Civil Aviation on various occasions, such as when Meenakshi was asked to remove her caliper during security check at the airport, when Ummul Khair's battery tray went missing after landing and arrival at the airport, and when request for uplift services was denied. DLU has taken up these issues along with the Media.
2. A Committee was formed to review the Civil Aviation Rules (CAR) and Rajiv was an alternate member in the committee to work on safety during flight, access, security and equipments along with Shivani.
3. "We" the PWD blog, is maintained by Vaishnavi to voice on issues faced by disabled people during air travel.
4. Jeeja Gosh's issue on the denial of air carriage from Kolkotta to Goa was strongly condemned. The team wrote letters to PMO, Home ministry, MSJE, MCA and DGCA supporting her.
5. Have been giving guidance to persons with disabilities and parents of persons with disabilities on the various rights based procedures to be followed in air travel.
6. New Airport was approached by the DLU to know and work on accessibility of the same.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL):

1. Met CMRL, Public Relations Officer (PRO), Chief General Managers (CGM) of Constructions and Systems as well as the MD, CMRL on universal design standards and guidance in the construction of Chennai Metro Rail System.
2. Did Delhi Metro access audit and submitted the same to CMRL.
3. Working with Corporation commissioner for Accessibility features in renovation work after CMRL.

LEGAL ISSUES:

1. Provided support and legal guidance to Mr. Vijayaraghavan's family, a person with mild MR on guardianship and legal transactions with respect to their property that is supposed to be transferred to his ownership.
2. Filed a writ petition at the High Court against the denial of Postal ID card to Mr. Vadivelan, a person with MR
3. Working on the case of Mr. Bose, a person with Visual Impairment, whose promotion is impaired because a fitness certificate was demanded by his private employer, and the certificate issued to him by a doctor states that he is 100% disabled and is therefore unfit for any job. He has also sought our help for getting financial assistance for his personal assistant whom he pays privately for assisting him in his office work.
4. Assisted in the the promotion of Mr. Jayachandran, a person with polio working in The District Disability Rehabilitation Office of Tiruvallur settled at Tiruvallur. He is promoted and transferred to his native district Tiruvannamalai!
5. Divorce case of Ms. Jamuna, a mother of a disabled child studying at Vidya Sagar has been taken up and referred to Ms. Ajitha, who is a Women's activist and a leading Advocate.
6. Worked with Navamani for the rights and space for Mr. Ramar, a disabled person who has left his house.
7. Legal Counseling Camp conducted at Cochin and Vizag.
8. Abilis funding period for Legal Aid Cell came to a close and final report submitted.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan SSA:

1. Attended NGOs meet conducted by SSA to discuss about imparting quality education for disabled children enrolled in SSA.
2. Smitha was a resource person for SSA District Officers Training Program along with Dipthi Bhatia on inclusive and accessible education system based on UNCRPD.
3. Presented papers on Accessible & Inclusive Schools & Education System for students with disabilities, in lines with UNCRPD to SSA.
4. Worked with the State Project Coordinator, SSA on designing accessible resource rooms.

Work within VS:

1. Working on the self employment venture of Matrix class students. Had meetings with the class students, teacher, parents and Kalpana, Prinicipal Day centre on the issue.
2. Rajiv was the mentor for Matrix class this year for the project day. Topic "Natural Disaster"
3. DLU Issue resource persons and conducted sessions for TTC, ASD, CRE and Counseling Courses.
4. Orientation on Human Rights was given to Radha Basu Class Students for the first 2 terms, one session every week.
5. Collected documents for alternative option for Mathematics, and working on it.
6. Coordinated the design for Kalakkal Café logo & posters and the dissemination of info about the café and inviting members within the disability Sector of Chennai.
7. Lobbied with the College management on getting Pavithra, an alumna of Vidya Sagar, into MOP Vaishnav College to do Masters Degree in mass communication.
8. Many other orientations were conducted.

New Disability Law:

1. Gave feedback on draft Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act bill submitted to MSJE.
2. Attended National Advisory Committee (NAC) meet thrice (2 in Delhi and 1 in Hyderabad). Second meet in Delhi was not inclusive as we were divided into two groups-Disabled People and Professionals.
3. We sent feedback to NAC on the recommendations of NAC Working group.
4. Initiated a campaign and prompted other Disabled People to send their feedback on the same.

Medical Disabilities:

1. We formed a group for various disabling medical conditions and associated them with Disability Rights Alliance, Tamil Nadu.
2. We had a few meetings to updated them on the drafting of the new Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act. We also facilitated them to give their views to the New Law Drafting Committee and MSJE.
3. The group came up with a list of 100 disabling medical conditions.
4. We had a meet with the Health Secretary, Mrs. Girija Vaidhyathan, and gave a list of 100 disabling medical conditions and sought to include this list in the State Health Insurance Scheme. We also asked her to come up with an orientation program on these disabilities for the medical/para medical staff at the rural and urban setup. She informed us that the health department has already initiated a master trainers orientation and curriculum framework. She agreed to include the list that we shared with her in the training program. She also said that she will work on including the list of disabling medical conditions in the State Insurance Scheme. She further said that it is almost impossible to provide free medicines to people with 100 odd medical conditions mentioned in the list. Initially 3 conditions can be looked at for medicines at no/low cost.

Other trainings / Meetings conducted/attended:

1. Meenakshi participated and gave suggestions in a meeting conducted in Pune to frame the State rules for RTE for Maharashtra State.
2. Ektha conducted a meeting with the federations of disabled people in Tamil Nadu.
3. Meenakshi was a resource person to the training programme conducted by Clarke school for SSA teachers on UNCRPD.
4. Meenakshi was a resource person for an awareness program on UNCRPD conducted by CBM for its partners at Coimbatore.
5. Rajiv & Smitha took part in a meeting conducted by Hand in Hand to analyse the Right to Education Act and presented the views of Disability Sector.
6. Dhana sekar Andavar along with P.S. Dheepakh gave an orientation to the newly appointed volunteers/care takers under SSA for two days on disability perspectives and educational rights.
7. Smitha and Shanthi took part and gave the disability sector's perspectives at the 3rd and 4th country report discussions for Convention on the Rights of Children conducted by ICCW TN.
8. Smitha, Dhana and Shanthi were resource persons for a sensitization program on Disability perspectives and UNCRPD to EB officers from across districts of Tamil Nadu conducted by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board..
9. Participated in Human chain against DOW Chemicals sponsoring London Olympics 2012, as they were mainly responsible for Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
10. Rajiv attended National Resource Centre for Inclusion (NRCI) meeting in collaboration with German Government on DPO formation.

Others:

1. Giving suggestions to the development of the website "sexuality & disability", a complete information and guide on sexuality, reproduction health care and related matter. The website was launched in April 2012.
2. Formed part of the Banyan's Human Rights Cell and regularly provide our services every fortnightly. As part of the cell, we have also done a house visit of a person with Mental Illness. Rajiv & Dhana are actively involved in this.
3. Had a meetings with the Commissioner, Directorat of Census Operations, Tamil Nadu as a follow up to the 2011 census. Disability data to be out by June 2012.
4. Working on the issue of ID cards for MS persons and are coordinating with Disability Commissioners office, SRTC and MSSSI for the same.
5. The Consultant Educationist, on the Preparation of a status paper on persons with Multiple Disabilities in India for RCI.
6. Gave recommendations & feedback to the draft National Policy for Senior Citizens.
7. Access audit conducted at Chennai Museum and suggestions for universal design standards given at their request.

Vidya Sagar and the Christian Children's Fund of Canada have shared a long and successful partnership. The partnership commenced in the year 2002 with an initial enrolment of 300 children. Children from the various projects of Vidya Sagar were beneficiaries of Christian Children's Fund of Canada sponsorships for the past 10 years. 2011 -2012 was the final year of this partnership.

Christian Children's Fund of Canada has supported Vidya Sagar in achieving the common objectives of the Project Operating Plan (POP), in the three sectors of Education, Health & Nutrition, and Strengthening Institution and Community Organisation.

The activities formulated in the POP were pertaining to the following areas of work at Vidya Sagar-

- Special Education
 - Early Intervention
 - Day Centre
 - Pre-vocational Training/Vocational training
- Parents workshops & Home visits
- Inclusion
 - Capacity Building-teachers/parents/peers. Support services for children in mainstream schools
- Leisure & Co curricular activities
- Field trips/Educational tours/Excursions
- Procurement of Aids and Adaptations
- Improving transport facilities
- Supply of Medicines & Nutritional supplements
- Diet Counseling
- Capacity building and skills enhancement for the staff
- Advocacy programs for staff/students/school teachers/community
- Networking for advocacy/medical care/technology

In 2011-2012- the funds received from Christian Children's Fund of Canada were put to optimum use for

- Facilitating transport for sponsored students.
- Assistive devices and learning aids (orthotic aids, mobility aids, & adaptations).
- Special furniture.
- Communication aids, particularly the purchase of the iPad for children with Autism..
- Co curricular activities & leisure clubs, excursions, educational tours and outings.
- Support services for the included students in private & government schools Supplementary diets.
- Specific medical needs (medicines & medical assistance on an emergency basis, for treatment and hospitalizations, post operative care and rehabilitation. health check ups & clinical tests)
- Capacity building programmes to build awareness in the community, (Trainings & workshops for mainstream school teachers, support staff, parents)
- Skills enhancement training & workshops for the staff & parents.
- Facilitating opportunities to students and the DLU for Advocacy.
- Regular maintenance of school premises.



World Autism Day

The children enjoyed warm letters, greeting cards and special gifts sent from their sponsors. The Christian Children's Fund of Canada has always shown great interest & involvement in knowing about Vidya Sagar and our programs. The Program Operating Plans were made with complete independence and also modified to suit our organisational needs and objectives. The partnership with Christian Children's Fund of Canada has helped Vidya Sagar take its work many steps forward.



Art session funded by CCFC special project

The success of this partnership was largely due to the fact that Vidya Sagar and the Christian Children's Fund of Canada share common objectives in many areas, such as the 'Rights Based Approach' to work, and the commitment towards the empowerment of children and their parents.



CCFC Evaluation meet with parents

Christian Children's Fund of Canada (India Office in particular) also shared a very warm and friendly relationship with Vidya Sagar. The management of Vidya Sagar felt confident of the support, help and guidance that came from them.

All training and capacity building programs funded by Christian Children's Fund of Canada helped in creating allies for the disabled, and in strengthening the disability movement. The huge Christmas tree and the decorations that adorn Vidya Sagar during Christmas Day celebration every year will always remind us of the ten productive and enriching years that we shared with Christian Children's Fund of Canada.

We hope that Christian Children's Fund of Canada will continue its support to make a difference to the lives of the disabled children and their families all over the world.



Art session funded by CCFC special project

Sadya, now in its eleventh year, brings together sensitive and motivated people from the corporate sector with a penchant for adventure and life.

Conducted over two days - February 4th and 5th, 2012 at the 11 acre Adventure Zone Training Camp site at Madhuranthakam, the participants are put through activities like rock climbing , rappelling , caterpillar race ,crutch race and other games.

The winning team, Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. carried the Sadya rolling trophy, a beautiful metal sculpture created by the well known sculptor Mr. Nandagopal.

Our sincere gratitude to the Sadya team for putting together yet another wonderful event!

Vidya Sagar Trophy - Winner - Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

1st Runner up - Grundfos Pumps Pvt. Ltd.

2nd Runner up - Ashok Leyland Ltd.

3rd Runner up - Royal Images Direct Marketing Pvt Ltd.



Teams



Tug of war



Blind fold tent pitching

Our sincere gratitude to ...

Madras Round Table 1, for supporting us in installing a new electricity panel for our centre.



Inaugurated by Mr.Avinash Hemdev & Mr.Aditya Mirza

Message from Ms Dwaraka Pandurangi



Friends running for Vidya Sagar at the Delhi half Marathon 2011.

Dwaraka receiving the award

After 24 years of fundraising, I can claim I have a ring-side view of all its aspects - the NGOs' perspective, the donors' and the fundraiser's! It has been an exciting and challenging experience. Sandwiched between the NGO and the donor, the fundraiser has to tread very carefully -(especially a volunteer) - to stay in the good books of both parties!

So, why am I doing this?

Because, I believe: “Paropakaraaya vahanti nadyaha, paropakaaraya duhanti gaavaha, paropakarrayaphalanti vruکشaha, paropakaaraartham idam shareeram” - rivers flow to help others, cows give milk to help others, trees bear fruit to help others, God has given us this human form to be of use to others.

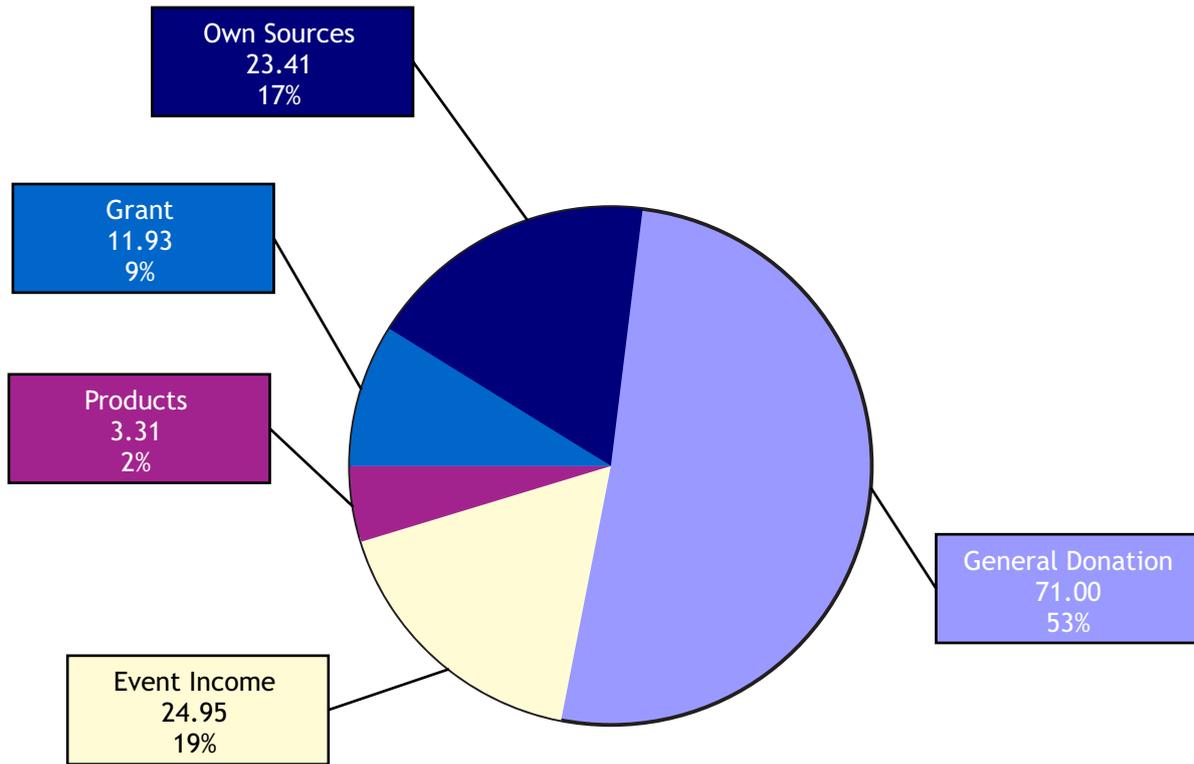
Because, God has given me much more than just a human form - a wonderful family, the means and skills to be of use to others, and a very special and caring NGO in Vidya Sagar, the ethos of which is set by its visionary Founder, Poonam Nataranjan. This is motivation enough!

Because, however cost-efficient Vidya Sagar is, it still needs a lot of funds. And, because corporate houses and individuals can and want to give. The basic urge to help exists- in many it is just dormant. To awaken and fire this instinct and to convince them that my NGO is special and deserves their help, to make it an easy and a pleasant experience for donors to give - and stay with us - is the challenge I have enjoyed year after year.

Because, people's generosity and their respect for me encourages me to work harder at fundraising and advocating for positive changes like rating of NGOs and transparency.

And because, I enjoy my work.

What better way to thank God than to put my humble PR, communication and persuasive skills to get the best out of NGOs and donors for the good of persons with special needs?



VIDYA SAGAR (FORMERLY THE SPASTICS SOCIETY OF INDIA)

Registered under Act 27, Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act
R.No. 467 of 1998

Founder : Mrs Poonam Natarajan
Chairperson : Mrs Usha Ramakrishnan
Director : Mrs Rajul Padmanabhan

Tel : 044 22353757
Email : director@vidyasagar.co.in

Address :

1, Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085
Tel: 044 22354784/85/4980 Fax : 044 22200533

Email : response@vidyasagar.co.in

Donations are exempt under 80G of the IT Act.
Registered u/s 12 A application no . DIT(E) No.2(374)98-99

Bank Details

Bank Address : State Bank of Mysore,
No.14, North Usman Road,
T Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.
Tel. 28340121

Saving Bank A/c No. 54028105944
IFSC SBMY0040169

Bank : HDFC
Branch Kotturpuram
Saving Bank A/c No. 13051450000068
Bank Address HDFC Bank Ltd.
46, Gandhimandapam Rd.,
Kotturpuram
Chennai - 600 085.

FCRA Account details

FCRA Regn No : 075300693, 13th Jan - 2000
Bank Address : State Bank of Mysore
No.14, North Usman Road, T Nagar, Chennai - 600 017. Tel. 28340121

Savings Bank A/c No : 54028105977
Swift Code No. : SBM YIN BBA 169

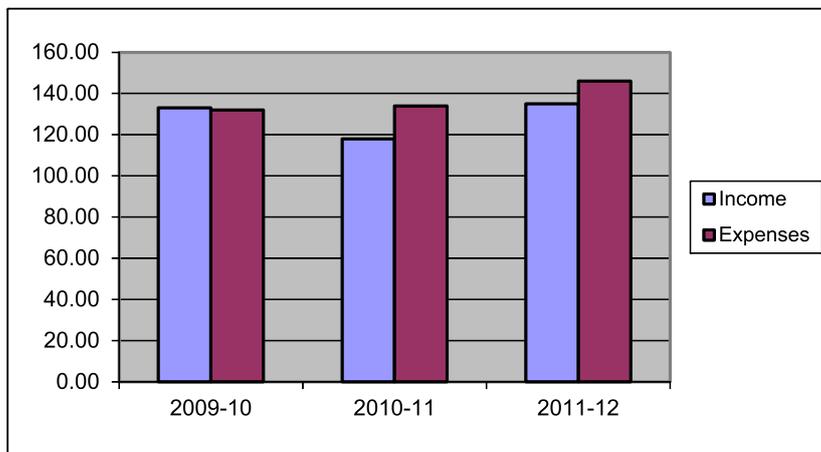
PAN NO. AAATV2359M

Margin

20000 and above	Nil
More than 15000 less than 20000	11
More than 10000 less than 15000	17
More than 5000 less than 10000	60
More than 3000 less than 5000	22
Less than 3000	3
	113

Income & Exp-2009-2012

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Income	133.00	118.00	135.00
Expenses	132.00	134.00	146.00



Board meeting

Date

November 13th, 2011

No. attended

7/10 Governing Body

11/24 - General Body

International Travel Details :

Name	Designation	Place	Funded by
Rajul Padmanabhan	Director	Toronto	International Society For Augmentative and Alternative Communication
Rajiv Rajan	Coordinator - Disability Legislation Unit	Seoul	Korean federation of Disabled
		Bangkok	International Disability Alliance
		Bangkok	Korean Federation of Disabled
Meenakshi	Asst Coordinator - Disability Legislation Unit	Korea	Korean Federation of Disabled
		Bangkok	International Disability Alliance

Ms. Usha Ramakrishnan	Chairperson And Special Educator
Ms. Asha Menon Ms. Revathy Suresh	- Vice Chairperson Artist- Trustee of Swabiman Foundation And Tanker Kidney Foundation
Mr. Shankaran Nair	- Treasurer Company Executive
Mrs Anuradha Venkatesh	- Secretary, Entrepreneur
Ms. Poonam Natarajan	- Member Chairperson National Trustr
Dr Vikram K Vinod	- Member Actor, Youth Envoy for United Nations Human Settlement programme - “UN Habitat”
Mr. N. Gopinath	-Member Managing Director Fluidtherm Technology Pvt Ltd. & Managing Director of Magnatherm Alloys Pvt. Ltd.
Ms. Rasheeda Bhagat	- Member. Deputy Editor, Business Line, Member of the Board of management -SCARF
Ms. Malini Chib	- Member. Founder and Co-Chairperson of ADAPT rights group
Mr Sriram Panchu	- Member. Senior Counsel.
Mrs Rajul Padmanabhan	- Member. Director, Vidya Sagar and Special Educator.
Mrs Seetha Ratnakar	- Member Asst Station Director - Doordharshan Kendra
Mrs Urmila Agarwal	- Member. Entrepreneur.
Mr Suresh Menon	- Member, Film Maker.
Ms Preeti Mehra	- Member. Journalist.
Ms Dwaraka Pandurangi	- Member. Entrepreneur.
Dr Namita Jacob	- Member. Program Director, Chetna Trust.
Ms Dipti Bhatia	- Member Deputy Director -Vidya Sagar
Ms Mallika Ganapathy	- Member. Managing Director, MIRRA Trust
Mr G J Siddharth	- Member. Banking Executive.
Ms Kalpana Rao	- Member. Principal, Day Centre, Vidya Sagar
Ms Sudha Ramamoorthy	- Member Deputy Director - Vidya Sagar and Special Educator
Mr Rajiv Rajan	- Member Coordinator- Disability Legislation Unit - Vidya Sagar

Senior Management Team

RAJUL PADMANABHAN
Director

DIPTI BHATIA
Deputy Director/Coordinator-
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

SUDHA R
Deputy Director

RADHA MURALIDHARAN
Coordinator-Accounts

SUGUNA V
Coordinator-
Adult Leisure Program

VIMALA S
Coordinator-Vision Centre

VIJAYASHREE R
Coordinator-
Employment Education Centre

KALPANA RAO
Principal- Day Centre

RAJEEV RAJAN
Coordinator-
Disability Legislation Unit

JAYANTHI NARAYANAN
Coordinator-
Family Based Rehabilitation

SHIRIN
Coordinator-
Human Resources Development

UMA K.S
Coordinator-
Human Resources Development

SUMITHRA NATH
Coordinator-
Christian Children's Fund of Canada

NAZIR
Coordinator-
Community Based Rehabilitation

SIMY T.A
Coordinator-Physiotherapy

Resources/PRO
ROHINI RAMESH

Special Educators

ANURADHA S
CHANDRA P
CHITRA RAVICHANDRAN
DHANALAKSHMI V
JAYALAKSHMI
JEEVA M
KAVERI V
KAVITHA GOPALAN
LAKSHMI PRABHAKARAN
MANJU RANI SARKAR
MEENAKSHI K
MINOTI SEN
PUSHPAPRIYA GANESH
RABECCAL K
RINKU BANDYOPADHYAH
SASIKALA R
SHEFALI
SMITHA PADMANABHAN
SUJATHA SRIRAM
VALLIAMMAL A
VICTORIA H

Physiotherapy Department

CAROLINE JOTHI E
GAJENDRAKUMAR
HARIKRISHNAN M-Sports
HEMALATHA R
JAYALAKSHMI S
KRITHIKA SAMBASIVAM
LAKSHMI S
MALINI PARTHASARATHY
NIRMALA M
JAYANTHI K
PAUL ROBINSON
SHANTHI R
SUMITHRA K
VIJAYLAKSHMI

Social Worker

SIMEON JOSHUA

Teachers

MEENA D
RADHA BASU
ROOPA SALDANHA-Music
SHALIMA PAUL
VAIDEKI V

Teachers

MEENA D
RADHA BASU
ROOPA SALDANHA-Music
SHALIMA PAUL
VAIDEKI V

Vocational Instructors

AMIRTHARAJ I
JAYANTHI VISWANATHAN
VIMALA T.A

Consultants

SRIMATHI KAVAR-Inclusion
TERESIAMMA FRANCIS-Counseling

Nipm-uthandi

KRISHNAKUMAR K
M.K.MURTHUZA

Disability Legislation Unit

MEENAKSHI B-Assitant Coordinator
DHANA SEKAR A-Assitant Coordinator
SMITHA S.S-Assitant Coordinator
SHANTHI R-Secretary

Tejas Project

MEENAKSHI B-Co-Convenor
SMITHA S.S-Co-Convenor

Accounts

CHITRA S-Accountant
DHANASEKAR R-Account Assistant

Administration

BALAJI R-System Incharge
DEEPA A - Office Assistant
DHANAPAL N-Office assistant
JANAKIRAMAN-Assistanat
JOSEPHINE G-Secretary

NIRMAL KUMAR V.K-Office
PRABHAKARAN A-Receptionist
RAMADEVI M-Secretary
REVATHY S-Secretary
SIMONA K-Secretary
SIVRAM B-Assistanat
SUNARA K.P-Office Assistant
VIDYA KRISHNAN-Assistant

Library

RAJALAKSHMI.R.
KANTHIMATHI.K.

Wheelchair Maintenance

MUSTAFA

Carpentry

MURALI S

Transport

ANTONY RAJ

Support staff

ALAMELU D
AMUDHA A
ANJALI.S
BANUMATHY S
DHEEPA K
GIRIJA V
GNANAM R
INDIRANI.P
JAYA D
KASTURI S
KOKILA E
KUPPULAKSHMI N
LAKSHMI A
LAKSHMI K
M.MARIAMMAL
MUMTAJ J
RADHA K
RAJESWARI V
RANI S
SARASWATHY P
SELVI M
SHANTHI G
SUGUNAVATHY K

SANKARAN & KRISHNAN

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

"Rosewood Offices"
130, Mahathma Gandhi Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 034.

Phone : 2833 1550
2833 0723
Fax : 4218 2018
E-mail : sk1960@airtelmail.in

FORM NO. 10-B

AUDITORS' REPORT UNDER SECTION 12A(b) OF THE INCOME-TAX ACT, 1961.

We have examined the Balance Sheet of VIDYASAGAR, 1, Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai 600 085, as on 31st March 2012 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended on that date, which are in agreement with the books of accounts maintained by the said Institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the Audit. In our opinion, proper books of accounts have been kept by the above named Institution.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view:

- (i) In the case of the Balance Sheet of the State of affairs of the above named Institution as at 31st March 2012.
- (ii) In the case of Income and Expenditure Account, the excess of Expenditure over Income of its accounting year ended 31.03.2012.

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

For **SANKARAN & KRISHNAN**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
FRN 003582S

PLACE: CHENNAI
DATE : 06.07.2012



Balachandran
(BALACHANDRAN)
PARTNER
Membership No.016271

Branches : HYDERABAD, VIZAG, NEW DELHI, BANGALORE

Continuation Sheet
Annexure to Form 10-B - Vidyasaagar
PAN - AAATV2359M
STATEMENT OF PARTICULARS
I) APPLICATION OF INCOME FOR CHARITABLE OR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES

	Rs.
1. Amount of income of the previous year applied to charitable or religious purposes in India during the year.	1,55,86,718
2. Whether the trust/Institution has exercised the option under clause (2) of the EXPLANATION to section 11 (1). If so, the details of the amount of income deemed to have been applied to charitable or religious purposes in India during the previous year.	No
3. Amount of Income accumulated or set apart/ finally set apart for application to charitable religious purposes, to the extent it does not exceed 15% of the income derived from property held under Trust wholly / in part only for such purposes.	20,19,256
4. Amount of income eligible for exemption under section 11(1)(c) give details.	N.A.
5. Amount of income, in addition to the amount referred to in item 3 above, accumulated or set apart for specified purposes under section 11(2).	NIL
6. Whether the amount of income mentioned in Item 5 above has been invested or deposited in the manner laid down under in section 11(2)(b) ? If so the details thereof.	NO
7. Whether any part of the income in respect of which an option was exercised under clause (2) of the EXPLANATION to section 11(1) in any earlier year under section 11(1B)? If so, the details thereof.	NO
8. Whether, during the previous year, any part of income accumulated or set apart for specified purposes under section 11(2) in any earlier years.	NO
a) has been applied for purposes other than Charitable or religious purposes or has ceased to be accumulated or set apart for application thereto, or	NO



Continuation Sheet

b) has ceased to remain invested in any security referred to in section 11(2)(b)(i) or deposited in any account referred to in 11(2)(b)(iii), or NIL

c) has not been utilized for purposes for which it was accumulated or set apart during the period for which it was to be accumulated or set apart, or in the year immediately following the thereof? If so, details thereof. NIL

Substituted by IT (Third Amdt.) Rules, wef 01.04.76

Renumbered by IT (Third Amdt.) Rules 1976, wef 01.04.76

II) APPLICATION OR USE OF INCOME OR PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF PERSONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 13(3)

1. Whether any part of the income or property of the Trust/Institution was lent, or continues to be lent, in the previous year to any person referred to in the Annexure as such person? If so, give details of the amount, rate of interest charged and the nature of security, if any. NIL

2. Whether any land, building or other property of the trust/Institution was made or continued to be made, available for the use of any such person during the previous year? If so, give details of the property and the amount of rent or compensation charged, if any. NIL

3. Whether any payment was made to any such person during the previous year by way of salary, allowances, or otherwise? If so, give details. NIL

4. Whether the services of the Trust/Institution were made available to any such person during the previous year? If so, give details thereof together with remuneration or compensation received, if any. NIL

5. Whether any share security or other property was purchased or on behalf of the Trust/Institution during the previous year from any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the consideration paid. NIL

6. Whether any share, security or other property was sold by or on behalf of the Trust/Institution during the previous year to any such person? If so, give details thereof together with consideration received. NIL

7. Whether any income or property of the trust/Institution was diverted in the previous year in favour of any such person? If so, give details thereof together with the amount of income or value of property so diverted. NIL

8. Whether the income or property of the trust/Institution was used or applied during the previous year NIL



Continuation Sheet

for the benefit of any such person in any other manner?
If so, give details.

III. INVESTMENTS HELD AS ANY TIME DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR(S) IN CONCERNS IN WHICH PERSONS REFERRED TO IN SECTION 13 (3) HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST.

S.No. (1)	Name and address of the concern (2)	Where the concern is a company No. of class if shares held (3)
Total ----- NIL -----		

Nominal Value of the Investment (4)	Income from the Investment (5)	Where the amount of Col 4 exceed 5% of the capital of the concern during the previous year - say Yes/No (6)
Total ----- NIL -----		

For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
FRN 03582S

PLACE: CHENNAI

DATE : 06.07.2012



M. Balachandran

(M. BALACHANDRAN)
PARTNER
Membership No.016271

VIDYA SAGAR
No1. Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai-600 085.
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2012

LIABILITIES	Rs. P.	ASSETS	Rs. P.
Trust / General Fund (Schedule A)	9,789,085.18	Fixed Assets (Schedule E)	22,738,926.99
Depreciation Reserve Fund (Schedule B)	15,510,282.34	Investments (Schedule F)	7,143,444.00
Corpus Donation	4,651,072.00	Receivables	823,667.81
Grant in Aid (Schedule C)		Grant in Aid Abilis (Schedule G)	28,571.50
1. Grant in aid CCFC - Subsidy	105,258.01	Current Assets	
2. Grant in aid CCFC - CDG	29,563.00	<u>Cash in hand</u>	31,374.00
3. Grant in aid Handicap International	13,592.99	General 29729.00	
4. National Award	39,231.00	CCFC 1645.00	
5. Sri Sarvatma Natarajan Trust	57,560.95	<u>Cash at Bank</u>	3,511,595.92
6. Grant in Aid-Hilton perkins	51,519.00	(Schedule H)	
Liabilities & Provisions (Schedule D)	650,618.75		
Bank Overdraft	3,379,797.00		
TOTAL	34,277,580.22		34,277,580.22

Rajul Padmanabhan

RAJUL PADMANABHAN
DIRECTOR
VIDYA SAGAR



As per our Report & Certificate
For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Sankaran
PARTNER
MIND: 10271

VIDYA SAGAR
No1. Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai-600 085.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2012

DESCRIPTION	2012	2011	DESCRIPTION	2012	2011
Expenditure	TOTAL	TOTAL	Income	TOTAL	TOTAL
Application Fee	-	7,025.00	Assesment Fund	99,250.00	112,640.00
Aids & Appliances	75,150.00	64,418.00	Calendars	-	377,014.00
AMC	70,931.00	73,223.00	Donation Fund	6,935,717.00	4,344,564.00
Audit Fees	5,515.00	5,515.00	Donation Fund (Foreign)	145,389.00	453,460.00
Bank charges	5,905.20	8,081.20	Donation Fund (Sadya)	2,320,000.00	3,765,000.00
Books & Periodicals	6,249.00	5,371.00	Fund Raising	195,300.00	170,646.00
Consultation Charges	218,893.00	156,015.00	Greeting Cards	331,078.00	80,840.00
Conveyance & Travelling	228,291.61	510,302.75	Grant in aid State Commissioner	180,000.00	180,000.00
Depreciation	947,291.00	886,883.96	Grant in aid MSJE	1,013,282.00	-
Electricity	349,190.00	347,542.00	Interest	425,775.22	373,125.61
Event Expenses	90,340.50	133,435.75	Internship Fees	-	24,000.00
Fund Raising Expenses	192,197.00	231,880.00	Mobility Fund	613,800.00	649,600.00
Gratuity	8,905.00	50,919.00	Miscellaneous Income	68,942.75	70,562.00
Honorarium	84,250.00	71,990.00	Rent Received	229,630.00	316,602.00
Internet charges	28,040.00	17,138.00	Tuition Fund	796,900.00	728,345.00
Interest Paid	221,031.00	19,978.50	Vocational Training Income	88,079.50	100,719.00
Library Books	31,257.00	6,457.00	Profit on Sale of Vehicle	18,564.00	-
Lease Rent	6,150.00	6,150.00	Deficit	2,125,011.02	2,491,042.25
Maintenance- Building	240,500.00	216,500.00			
Maintenance & Repairs	435,790.75	103,206.86			
Miscellaneous Expenses	23,223.75	23,108.00			
PF Administrative Expenses	88,295.00	72,796.00			
Provident Fund	654,127.00	510,389.00			
Postage	17,441.00	19,322.00			
Printing & Stationery	170,070.33	167,726.24			
Raw Material	27,105.00	33,039.00			
Rent	109,350.00	86,650.00			
Salaries	9,201,082.00	8,291,412.00			
Security Charges	144,000.00	144,000.00			
Seminars & Workshop	25,955.25	160,889.00			
Staff Welfare	211,509.00	273,336.00			
Staff Transport	98,704.00	46,712.00			
Students Welfare	124,810.00	102,316.00			
Students Conveyance	757,658.00	722,918.00			
Students Medicals	168,947.00	131,163.00			
Subscription & Membership	9,750.00	11,050.00			
Teaching Aids	80,782.10	146,243.60			
Telephone Charges	125,978.00	99,948.00			
Vocational Training Expenses	-	61,028.00			
Vehicle Expenses	177,829.00	118,332.00			
Vehicle Tax	-	10,436.00			
Web Maintenance	24,225.00	33,314.00			
Water Tax	100,000.00	50,000.00			
TOTAL	15,586,718.49	14,238,159.86		15,586,718.49	14,238,159.86

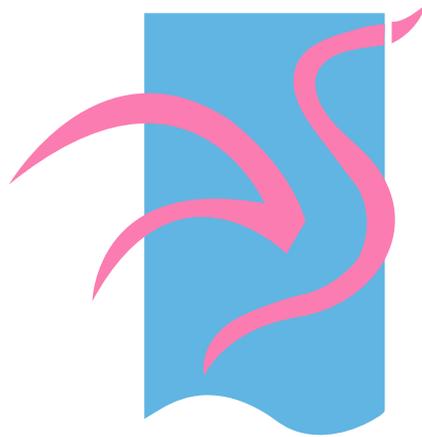
As per our Report & Certificate
For SANKARAN & KRISHNAN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Rajul Padmanabhan

RAJUL PADMANABHAN
DIRECTOR
VIDYA SAGAR



M. Balachandran
PARTNER
6/7/12
M. BALACHANDRAN
M.No : 16271



VIDYA SAGAR

(Formerly 'The Spastics Society of India, Chennai')

1, Ranjith Road, Kotturpuram, Chennai - 600 085

Tel: 044 22354784/85/4980 Fax : 044 22200533

Email : response@vidyasagar.co.in

Web: www.vidyasagar.co.in



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(Formerly 'The Spastics Society of India, Chennai')

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